(d) whether Government propose to constitute a Monitoring Committee to oversee it?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. an amount of Rs. 388.98 lakh has been sanctioned for the development of tea tourism circuit in North Bengal during the year 2006-07. The tea gardens identified for the development under this project are Hilla Tea Garden, Mohua Tea Garden and Murti Tourist Complex.

(d) Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of the projects from time to time through its field offices and review meetings. The balance fund for a project is released only on receipt of completion/utilization certificate in respect of the installment released earlier for it. There is a state level Monitoring Committee responsible for regular monitoring of projects.

Development of ports as cruise shipping stations

2379. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are coming up with a new policy to promote cruise tourism;

(b) if so, what are the objectives of the policy;

(c) whether any port is being developed as cruise shiping station;

(d) if so, the ports of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa which would have the stations; and

(e) if not, the reasons for developing a few ports in selective States in peninsular India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Ministry of Tourism in partnership with Ministry of Shipping has been promoting cruise tourism in the country both for domestic and overseas tourists. A high Power Steering Group under the chairmanship of Minister of Shipping with Minister of Tourism & Culture as co-chairperson has been set up to formulate cruise shipping policy. The Steering Group has recommended policy measures for issues related to smooth

immigration and custom clearance, upgradation of ports infrastructural facilities, connectivity to ports, rationalisation of taxation and cabotage relaxation to promote and develop cruise tourism products. Ministry of Shipping has decided to evolve phased programmes in association with Ministry of Tourism for development facilities at ports for cruise shipping.

Setting up of special tourism zones

2380. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any committee to study the setting up of special tourism zones;

(b) if so, the composition of the committee;

(c) what are the terms and references and recommendations of the said committee; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these recommendations were included in recently adopted National Tourism Policy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Development of Somnath and Dwarka regions

†2381. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for the development of Somnath region and Dwarka region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations including the State of Gujarat. However, the Ministry of Tourism from 10th Five Year Plan is extending

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.